



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article, which article is intended to be positioned in the crotch area of a wearer and has a surface intended during use to be in contact with skin and/or mucous membranes and which comprises at least one absorbent body and a carrier containing at least one additive intended to be released from the carrier, wherein the carrier comprises a polysiloxane gel,

wherein the polysiloxane gel is a structure in which polysiloxanes are cross-linked and form a three-dimensional network which is swollen in a hydrophobic substance, or a substance where the greater part is hydrophobic, and forms an oil gel.

2. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier has an extent in the X-Y plane of the absorbent body which constitutes less than 30% of the area of the absorbent body in the X-Y plane.

3. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 2, wherein the carrier has an extent in the X-Y plane of the absorbent body which constitutes less than 15% of the area of the absorbent body in the X-Y plane.

4. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 3, wherein the carrier has an extent in the X-Y plane of the absorbent body which constitutes less than 5% of the area of the absorbent body in the X-Y plane.

5. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the additive to be released comprises lactobacilli.

6. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the additive to be released comprises at least one active substance selected from: oil, lotion, anti-chafing agent, odor inhibitor, cooling agent or vegetable extract.

7. (Currently Amended) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the additive also constitutes the an agent for swelling the three-dimensional polysiloxane network.

8. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the polysiloxane gel is loosely cross-linked.

9. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 8, wherein the polysiloxane gel is cross-linked so that the meshes have a size of at least 1 micrometer.

10. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 9, wherein the degree of cross-linking of the polysiloxane gel decreases, and thus its mesh size increases, in the direction towards that surface of the gel which is intended to release the additive.

11. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the polysiloxane gel is applied to the absorbent article in the form of a net, a perforated gel, a latticed pattern or strands.

12. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the release of additive by the polysiloxane gel is activated by diffusion, pressure, heat, movement, liquid or moisture, friction forces, shear forces or a combination of these.

13. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein that surface of the polysiloxane gel which faces the skin during use is covered by a detachable protective layer.

14. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the polysiloxane gel is mixed with a glue.

15. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the polysiloxane gel is intermixed with the absorbent body and/or with a surface layer or a spreading layer in the absorbent article.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an additive to an absorbent article comprising providing a polysiloxane gel with an additive and attaching the polysiloxane gel to an absorbent article, which article is intended to be positioned in the crotch area of a wearer, and wherein the additive is arranged so as to be released from the polysiloxane gel during use of the absorbent article,

wherein the polysiloxane gel is a structure in which polysiloxanes are cross-linked and form a three-dimensional network which is swollen in a hydrophobic substance, or a substance where the greater part is hydrophobic, and forms an oil gel.

17. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 2, wherein the additive to be released comprises lactobacilli.

18. (Original) Absorbent article according to Claim 1, comprising a sanitary towel, panty liners, a tampon or an incontinence pad.